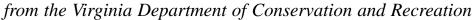# Conservation Education Resources

from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Resource materials for educators -

For copies of materials, contact *pco@dcr.virginia.gov* unless otherwise specified.
• *Raindrops Keep Falling on Your Head -* a kids' activity book about nonpoint source pollution and watersheds
• Watershed map posters
• Cave Week/karst education packets (contact Carol Zokaites, Natural Heritage Program,*Carol.Zokaites@dcr.virginia.gov*)
• Storm drain stenciling kits - contains information on stormwater runoff and includes materials you need to conduct a stenciling project at your school or in your community (visit Adopt A Stream at: *www.dcr.virginia.gov/sw/adopt.htm*)
• *NPS (nonpoint source) Pollution and You* - a brochure about nonpoint source pollution
• *Watershed Connections* - a brochure that explains what a watershed is and how you can help
• *Watershed Connections* video - 10-minute video about how farmers, cities and citizens are helping protect waterways
• *I live in the x river watershed* bumper stickers and watershed resource yellowpages for 10 major watersheds
• Watershed website - *www.dcr.virginia.gov/waterways*
• Natural Heritage Program fact sheets and publications online (native plants, invasive species, rare, endangered species and ecological communities in Virginia - *www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/boodeduc.htm*
On loan:
• Crawl-through cave/groundwater tunnel (contact Carol Zokaites, Natural Heritage program, *Carol.Zokaites@dcr.virginia.gov*)
• Stormwater display (contact Lane Guilliams, *Lane.Guilliams@dcr.virginia.gov)*
• Enviroscape and groundwater models (contact regional DCR or Soil & Water Conservation District offices)

State Parks

State Parks are great places to go for learning and experiencing the environment. They offer environmental education center exhibits, demonstrations, materials, equipment, interpretive programs and environmental education activities on site, not to mention real critters, lakes, trees and plants. For a list of Virginia's state parks and programs, visit *www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks* or call 1-800-933-PARK.

Camps/service learning/service projects

Youth Conservation Corps - High school students participate in two-week, residential service learning in state parks during the summer. Corps members work on trails, park maintenance, restoration projects and participate in fun, hands-on learning activities.
Field day programs - DCR partners with soil and water conservation districts and other organizations on field school programs such as the Staunton River Field School (a week-long day camp for middle school students based at Staunton River Battlefield State Park) and the Appomattox River Field School. Many parks offer field day and special day-long programs for students such as Earth Day at Douthat State Park. Visit *www.dcr.virginia.gov* for details.
Junior Ranger Programs - State parks provide both summer and year-round junior ranger programs for youth.
Volunteer opportunities - **Adopt-A-Stream** and **Storm drain stenciling, citizen monitoring** (*www.dcr.virginia.gov/sw/adopt.htm*) and projects at individual state parks or natural areas are a great ways you can help protect the environment.

Curricula and teacher training

Virginia's State Parks: Your Backyard Classrooms curriculum and teacher workshops - Contact nearest state park
Project Underground curriculum and workshops - For more information, visit *www.dcr.virginia.gov/underground.htm*
Virginia Science Standards Institute - Held in partnership with the Virginia Museum of Natural History, Science Museum of Virginia and the the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries each summer at a state park, the institute is a great place for teachers to learn about natural resources.

Grants

Grants - DCR coordinates Chesapeake Bay Program grant funds for classroom bay "meaningful watershed experiences" as well as other outreach and education grants to localities and organizations for nonpoint source pollution prevention efforts. Visit *www.VaNaturally.com* or *www.dcr.virginia.gov*.